

MAXIMIZING EFFICIENCY WITH VALUE STREAM MAPPING

ABOUT THE CROWN GROUP. As the leading component finisher in North America with over 45 years of experience and nine locations in North America, The Crown Group is dedicated to providing high quality, environmentally friendly, and cost effective coating solutions. That same dedication applies to the other services they provide, including assembly, warehousing, and sequencing. Headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, with 75 employees, the company supplies the automotive industry as well as the agricultural, construction, heavy truck, military and alternative energy markets. The Crown Group is proud to have an environmental system in conformance with EN ISO 14001:2004, and is TS-16949 certified.

THE CHALLENGE. As The Crown Group sought to make room for a new product in its facility, the company discovered a number of inefficiencies that needed to be addressed. Representatives from Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), a NIST MEP affiliate, saw an opportunity to streamline the company's processes using Value Stream Mapping (VSM). MMTC advised The Crown Group participate in a VSM exercise to rearrange the facility and improve its functionality.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. VSM is a technique used to visualize both value-added and non-value-added activities in many types of processes. By mapping out all the steps in a given process, The Crown Group could identify waste and opportunities for improvement. This process allowed The Crown Group to visualize productive changes and determine the best ways to arrange their equipment for a well-organized facility.

MMTC helped the company to identify and consolidate similar processes to streamline the workflow. The more efficient plant layout is reducing the number of forklift miles driven each year and contributing to significant cost-savings. The Crown Group was able to make room for their new product as well as maximize the efficiency of the entire operation, and the company is adding and retaining jobs.

"The value stream mapping approach Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center brought to our company helped us see our processes in a different way. By streamlining our facility, we were able to save thousands of dollars and make room for new products."

-Jim Keena, Vice President of Operations

RESULTS



53 new jobs, 4 retained jobs



Savings of \$70,000



Investment of \$5,000



1,200 fewer forklift miles driven per year

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